UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/050,515	01/18/2002	Thomas Layne Bascom	12038	7770

38598 7590 03/09/2007	EXAMINER
ANDREWS KURTH LLP	STEVENS, ROBERT
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SUITE 1100	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20005	2162	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Interview Summary	10/050,515	BASCOM ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert Stevens	2162	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) *Robert Stevens, USPTO.*   (3) *Sean Wooden, Reg. No. 43,997.*

(2) *Thomas Bascom.*   (4)_____.

Date of Interview: *16 January 2006.*

Type: a)☒ Telephonic   b)☐ Video Conference
         c)☐ Personal [copy given to: 1)☐ applicant   2)☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d)☐ Yes   e)☒ No.
      If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: *all*.

Identification of prior art discussed: _____.

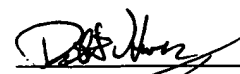Agreement with respect to the claims f)☐ was reached.   g)☒ was not reached.   h)☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: *Discussed proposed amendments sent via rightfax on 1/5/06. Discussed potential 35 USC 101 concerns. Proposed amendments differed from those suggested by Primary Examiner Alam. Examiner to pass proposal on to Primary Alam, with Applicant's comments from this interview.*

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

JOHN BREENE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an
Attachment to a signed Office action.   Examiner's signature, if required

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-413 (Rev. 04-03)   Interview Summary   Paper No. 20070116

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record
A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews
Paragraph (b)
In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.
All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

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The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:
- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:
1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
2) an identification of the claims discussed,
3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
   (The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

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Fax Cover Sheet

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RECIPIENT	COMPANY	FAX NUMBER	CONFIRMATION NUMBER
Examiner Stevens	U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	571-273-4102	571-272-4102

Message

Please see the attached Proposed Amendment for Application No. 10/050,515.

Treasury Circular 230 Disclosure – To comply with requirements imposed by the Internal Revenue Service, we inform you that any tax advice contained in this written communication (including any attachment) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, by any person for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed on the person. If this written communication contains any tax advice that is used or referred to in connection with the promoting, marketing or recommending of any transaction(s) or matter(s), this written communication should be construed as written to support the promoting, marketing or recommending of the transaction(s) or matter(s) addressed by this written communication, and the taxpayer should seek advice based on the taxpayer's particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor. No limitation has been imposed by Andrews Kurth LLP on disclosure of the tax treatment or tax structure of the transaction(s) or matter(s).

App. No. 10/050,515
Amendment dated May 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 11, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.	:	10/050,515
Applicant	:	Thomas L. BASCOM, et al.
Filed	:	January 18, 2002
Title	:	A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COLLECTING, STORING, MANAGING AND PROVIDING CATEGORIZED INFORMATION RELATED TO A DOCUMENT OBJECT
TC/A.U.	:	2176
Examiner	:	Robert Stevens
Docket No.	:	12038
Customer No.	:	038598

VIA FACSIMILE – 703-872-9306

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for enabling users of a network to create, store, and provide access to relationships among document objects stored on the network, the method comprising the steps of:

allowing creation of a link relationship between a first document object and a second document object, wherein the link relationship includes fields referencing a first and second document object and the allowing includes:

locating the first document object;

locating the second document object related to the first document object; and

creating a link relationship which references the first document object and the second document object;

storing the link relationship in one or more link directories; and

accessing one or more link relationships stored in the one or more link directories using a unique identifier for a document object, wherein the one or more link directories are separate from the document object; and

providing a link reference to another document object, wherein the link reference provided is determined by identifying those one or more link relationships stored in the one or more link directories that include the unique identifier of the document object.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the accessing step comprises providing access only to authorized users.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising authorizing users of the network to perform the allowing, storing and accessing steps.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein one or more of the steps of the method are accomplished by automated procedures not requiring interaction with the user.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the storing step comprises:

storing a link relationship entry in a link relationship table, wherein the link relationship entry comprises fields including a first link reference to the first document object and a second link reference to the second document object;

assigning link relationship attributes to the link relationship entry; and

setting a directional indicator for the link relationship entry.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the step of storing the link relationship in one or more link directories further comprises:

storing the first link reference to the first document object in a document object table;

assigning document object attributes to the first link reference associated with the first document object;

storing the second link reference to the second document object in a document object table; and

assigning document object attributes to the second link reference associated with the second document object.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein one or more of the link relationship attributes are set; and a directional indicator for the link relationship attribute is set by associating one document object attribute for the first link reference with one document object attribute for the second link reference.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the providing the link reference comprises 1 further comprising displaying the link reference to a user, wherein the displayed a link reference is to a document object related to a document object the user is currently accessing, wherein the link reference displayed to the user is determined by identifying those link relationships stored in the one or more link directories that include a link reference to a network address of the currently accessed document object.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the displaying step comprises displaying more than one link reference from one or more link directories.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the displaying step comprises sorting and presenting one or more link references by the one or more link directories storing the link references.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the displaying step comprises sorting and presenting the one or more link references by attributes of the link relationships and link references.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the method is used on one or more of: a private network, a closed network, a public network, and a private network that is connected to a public network.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more link directories are accessible only by a specific individual user of a client device.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more link directories may be stored on a server connected to the network by means of a secure connection.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising assigning attributes to the link relationship established between the first document object and the second document object.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16 further comprising assigning attributes to a first link reference to the first document object and a second link reference to the second document object.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of claim 16 wherein the link relationship stored in the one or more link directories may be organized, sorted, searched and filtered by one or more attributes assigned to the link relationship.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the link references stored in the one or more link directories may be organized, sorted, searched and filtered by one or more attributes assigned to the link references.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying one or more link references to document objects on the network, the displaying comprising:

    selecting the displayed link references for display based on a link relationship to a currently displayed document object; and

    filtering the displayed link references by attributes.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A system for establishing and providing access to relationships between document objects stored on a network wherein the relationship between a first document object and a second document object may be created by an individual user of the network and provided to other users of the network, the system comprising:

      one or more client devices that access document objects stored on the network and allow creation of link relationships between document objects, wherein the link relationship includes fields referencing a first and second document object and the one or more client devices allow creation of link relationships by:

            locating the first document object;

            locating the second document object related to the first document object; and

            creating a link relationship which references the first document object and the second document object; and

      one or more servers that store the link relationships created by the client devices, allow access to one or more stored link relationships using a unique identifier for a document object and transmit one or more link relationships and link references to the client devices, wherein the one or more stored link relationships are separate from the document object and the one or more servers comprise:

            one or more link directories that store the link relationships created on the one or more client devices;

            a server manager module that coordinates communication between the one or more link directories, a user directory, and the one or more client devices if those client devices are requesting services from the server; and

            a user data store that stores information regarding authorized users of the servers and link directories.

Claim 22 (original): The system of claim 21, wherein the one or more servers filter and sort the link relationships and link references before transmitting the link relationships and link references to the client devices.

Claim 23 (original): The system of claim 21, wherein the client devices filter and sort the link relationships and link references after the link relationships and link references are transmitted to the client devices from the one or more servers.

Claim 24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (currently amended):   The system of claim 21~~24~~, wherein the user data store comprises:

a user directory, the user directory comprising one or more user data records containing personal identifying information and information regarding which of the one or more link directories and the one or more servers a user may be authorized to access;

a user profile store, the user profile store comprising one or more user profile records each containing one or more user profiles for each authorized user of the servers and link directories; and

a user account store, the user account store comprising one or more user account records each containing usage data for each authorized user of the servers and link directories.

Claim 26 (previously presented):   The system of claim 21, wherein the one or more client devices comprise:

a client tool, wherein the client tool comprises a graphic user interface display;

a rendering tool that renders and displays document objects, the rendering tool comprising:

a graphic user interface display; and

a document object network address; and

a network access tool that connects the rendering tool and the client tool to the network.

Claim 27 (original):   The system of claim 26, wherein the document object network address comprises a Uniform Resource Locator.

Claim 28 (original):   The system of claim 26, wherein the client device further comprises one of:

one or more link directories that store the link relationships;

a communications module that coordinates communication between the one or more link directories, a user directory, a database of user profile data, and the one or more client devices; and

a user data store that stores information regarding authorized users of the client tool.

Claim 29 (currently amended):   The system of claim 2124, wherein the one or more link directories comprise:

 a link relationship table comprising a plurality of link relationship entries, the link relationship entries comprising:

  a first field comprising a first link reference to a first document object of the link relationship;

  a second field comprising a second link reference to a second document object of the link relationship;

  one or more link relationship attributes providing information that places the link relationship in a context useful to the user; and

  a directional indicator that indicates whether the link relationship between the first link reference to the first document object and the second link reference to the second document object applies in either direction or in both directions.

Claim 30 (original):   The system of claim 29, wherein the directional indicator comprises a plurality of directional indicator fields, each directional indicator field corresponding to one of the one or more link relationship attributes and indicating whether the corresponding link relationship attribute applies in one direction or in both directions between the first link reference to the first document object and the second link reference to the second document object.

Claim 31 (previously presented):   The system of claim 29, wherein the one or more link directories further comprise:

 a document object table comprising a plurality of link reference entries, the link reference entries comprising:

  a network address of the document object on the network indicated by the link reference entry wherein the unique identifier for a document object is the network address of the document object; and

  one or more document object attributes providing information that places the document object indicated by the link reference entry in a context that is useful to the user.

Claim 32 (original): The system of claim 31, wherein the network address comprises a Uniform Resource Locator.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The system of claim 31, wherein the link reference entries further comprise a listing of all link relationship entries in which the network address of the document object indicated by the link reference entry is present in the first field or the second field of the link relationship entries.

Claim 34 (original): The system of claim 33, wherein the network address comprises a Uniform Resource Locator.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The system of claim 29, wherein a network address of the document object on the network includes information necessary to specify the location of the document object on the network.

Claim 36 (original): The system of claim 35, wherein the network address comprises a Uniform Resource Locator.

Claim 37 (original): The system of claim 21, wherein the network is one or more of: a private network, a closed network, a public network, and a private network that is connected to a public network.

Claim 38 (original): The system of claim 21, wherein the one or more link directories are accessible only by a specific individual user of a client device.

Claim 39 (original): The system of claim 21, wherein the one or more link directories may be stored on a server connected to the network by means of a secure connection.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A computer readable storage medium upon which is embedded instructions for carrying out a method for enabling users of a network to create, store, and provide access to relationships among document objects stored on the network, the method comprising the steps of:

allowing creation of a link relationship between a first document object and a second document object, wherein the link relationship includes fields referencing a first and second document object and the allowing includes:

locating the first document object;
locating the second document object related to the first document object;

and

<u>creating a link relationship which references the first document object and</u> <u>the second document object;</u>

storing the link relationship in one or more link directories; ~~and~~

accessing one or more link relationships stored in the one or more link directories using a unique identifier for a document object, wherein the one or more link directories are separate from the document object; and

<u>providing a link reference to another document object, wherein the link reference</u> <u>provided is determined by identifying those one or more link relationships stored in the</u> <u>one or more link directories that include the unique identifier of the document object.</u>

Claim 41 (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the accessing step comprises providing access only to authorized users.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 40, further comprising authorizing users of the network to perform the allowing, storing and accessing steps.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the allowing step comprises:

a first user locating a first document object;

the first user locating a second document object related to the first document object in some manner determined by the first user; and

the first user creating a link relationship which references the first document object and the second document object.

Claim 44 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein one or more of the steps of the method are accomplished by automated procedures not requiring interaction with the user.

Claim 45 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the storing step comprises:

storing a link relationship entry in a link relationship table, wherein the link relationship entry comprises fields including a first link reference to the first document object and a second link reference to the second document object;

assigning link relationship attributes to the link relationship entry; and

setting a directional indicator for the link relationship entry.

Claim 46 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 45, wherein the step of storing the link relationship in one or more link directories further comprises:

storing the first link reference to the first document object in a document object table;

assigning document object attributes to the first link reference associated with the first document object;

storing the second link reference to the second document object in a document object table; and

assigning document object attributes to the second link reference associated with the second document object.

Claim 47 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 46, wherein one or more of the link relationship attributes are set; and a directional indicator for the link relationship attribute is set by associating one document object attribute for the first link reference with one document object attribute for the second link reference.

Claim 48 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 43 further comprising:

selecting a link reference to a first document object related to a second document object that a second user is currently accessing, by identifying those link relationships, stored in the one or more link directories, that include a link reference to a network address of the second document object the second user is currently accessing; and

displaying the selected link reference to the second user.

Claim 49 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 48, wherein the displaying step comprises displaying more than one link reference from one or more link directories.

Claim 50 (original): The method of claim 48, wherein the displaying step comprises sorting and presenting one or more link references by the one or more link directories storing the link references.

Claim 51 (original): The method of claim 50, wherein the displaying step comprises sorting and presenting the one or more link references by attributes of the link relationships and link references.

Claim 52 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the one or more link directories are accessible only by a specific individual user of a client device.

Claim 53 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 40 wherein the one or more link directories may be stored on a server connected to the network by means of a secure connection.

Claim 54 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 40 further comprising assigning attributes to the link relationship established between the first document object and the second document object.

Claim 55 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 54 further comprising assigning attributes to a first link reference to the first document object and a second link reference to the second document object.

Claim 56 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 54 wherein the link relationship stored in the one or more link directories may be organized, sorted, searched and filtered by one or more attributes assigned to the link relationships.

Claim 57 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 55 wherein the link references stored in the one or more link directories may be organized, sorted, searched and filtered by one or more attributes assigned to the link references.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the link relationship includes a directional indicator.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The system of claim 21, wherein the link relationship includes a directional indicator.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the link relationship includes a directional indicator.